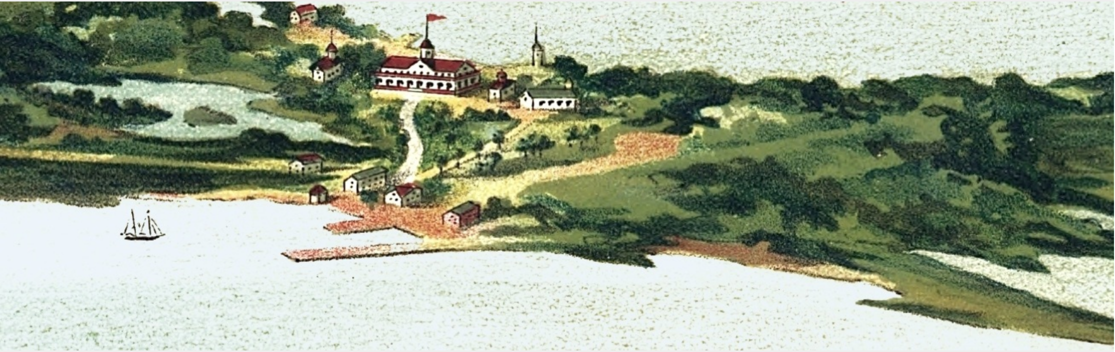
# CEDAR POINT PLEASURE RESORT (“PHASE 2”)

This (future) publication will detail the
“Second Phase” (1898-1905) of
**'Cedar Point Pleasure Resort'**



**[ circa-1898 artist's conceptual “birds-eye view” ]**

# CEDAR POINT PLEASURE RESORT ("Phase 2"):

The "second phase" of *'Cedar Point Pleasure Resort'* technically began in Dec. 1897, with the incorporation of "Cedar Point Pleasure Resort Company Of Indiana".

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"Phase One" of *'Cedar Point Pleasure Resort'* had begun in Nov.1887, with the formation, (in Ohio), of the "Cedar Point Pleasure Resort Company"; (or perhaps technically, in October of 1887, with the formation of the "Cedar Point Improvement Company").

This specific 'resort', itself, had actually been originally established in 1882/1883, but its ownership changed in 1887; and it was greatly expanded, and then named 'Cedar Point Pleasure Resort' for its "first season" under that name, in 1888.

It had a "record year" of attendance, in 1897, (and it had been renovated just prior to that "1897 season").

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But, it had another "first season" in 1898, because its management changed, (but with most of the same former owners of the enterprise), and it had been further expanded; and "1898" continued to be promoted as "its first season", (until circa-the-1950s). However, its name 'Cedar Point Pleasure Resort' was discontinued by 1905.

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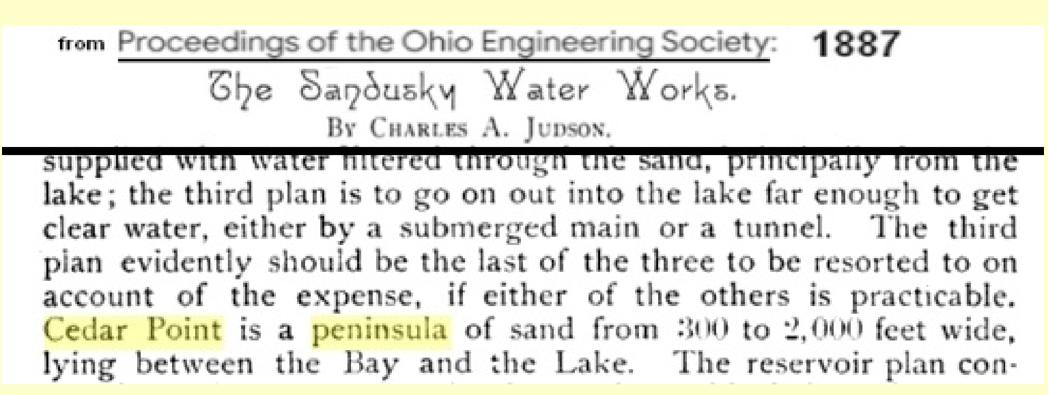

from Proceedings of the Ohio Engineering Society: 1887

The Sandusky Water Works.

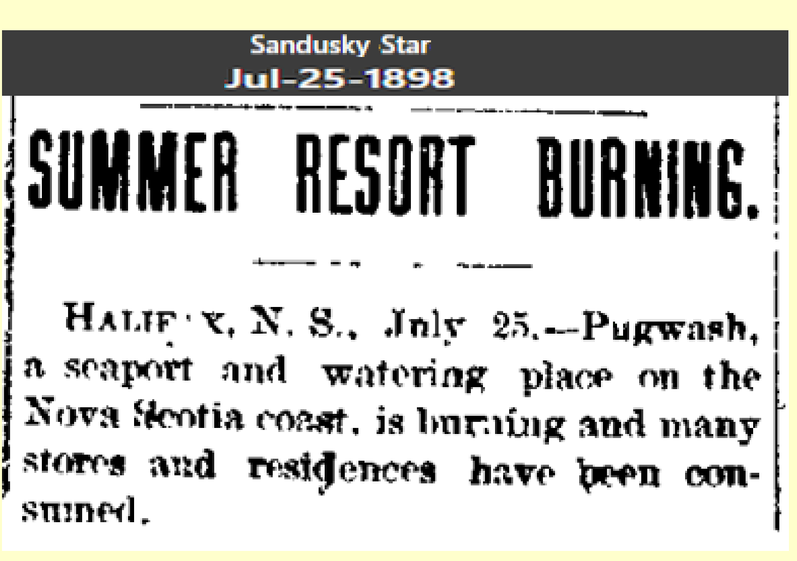
By Charles A. Judson.

supplied with water filtered through the sand, principally from the lake; the third plan is to go on out into the lake far enough to get clear water, either by a submerged main or a tunnel. The third plan evidently should be the last of the three to be resorted to on account of the expense, if either of the others is practicable. Cedar Point is a peninsula of sand from 300 to 2,000 feet wide, lying between the Bay and the Lake. The reservoir plan con-

[ Charles A. Judson was an official surveyor for Erie County, at that time.]

That item (etc.) is included here, to reiterate the fact that "Cedar Point" was not the name of any specific resort enterprise, in 1887, nor any time prior to that year.
Nor was "Cedar Point" the name of the 1888 'resort';
nor was "Cedar Point" the name of the 1898 'resort'.

"Cedar Point" was the name of the (entire) "peninsula", (but which, now, is actually an 'island', since circa-1969).

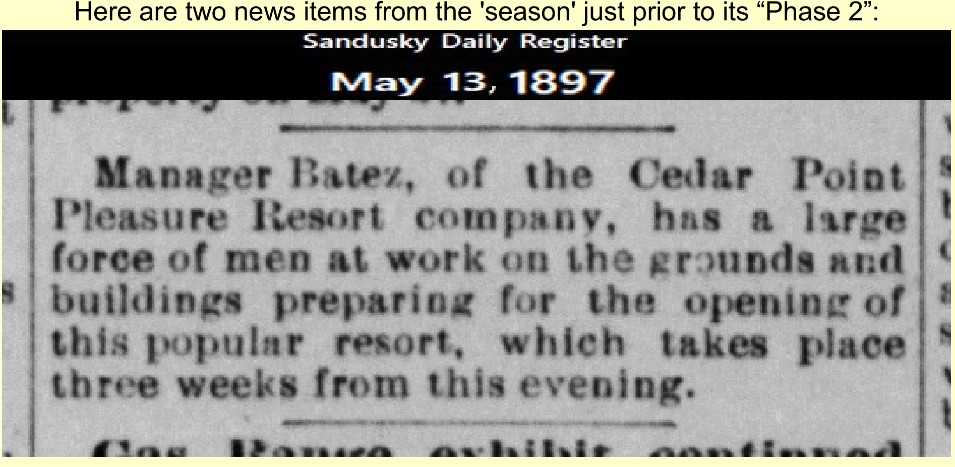

Sandusky Star
Jul-25-1898

SUMMER RESORT BURNING.

HALIFAX, N. S., July 25.—Pugwash, a seaport and watering place on the Nova Scotia coast, is burning and many stores and residences have been consumed.

That item is included as a caution against assuming that a "resort" meant a specific 'resort' enterprise. Clearly, the entirety of Pugwash village, was a "resort", in the same way that 'Coney Island' was a "resort" with multiple 'resort' enterprises. Cedar Point (peninsula/island) had multiple independent 'resort' enterprises, at the time that the direct-precursor to 'Cedar Point Pleasure Resort' was begun in 1882.

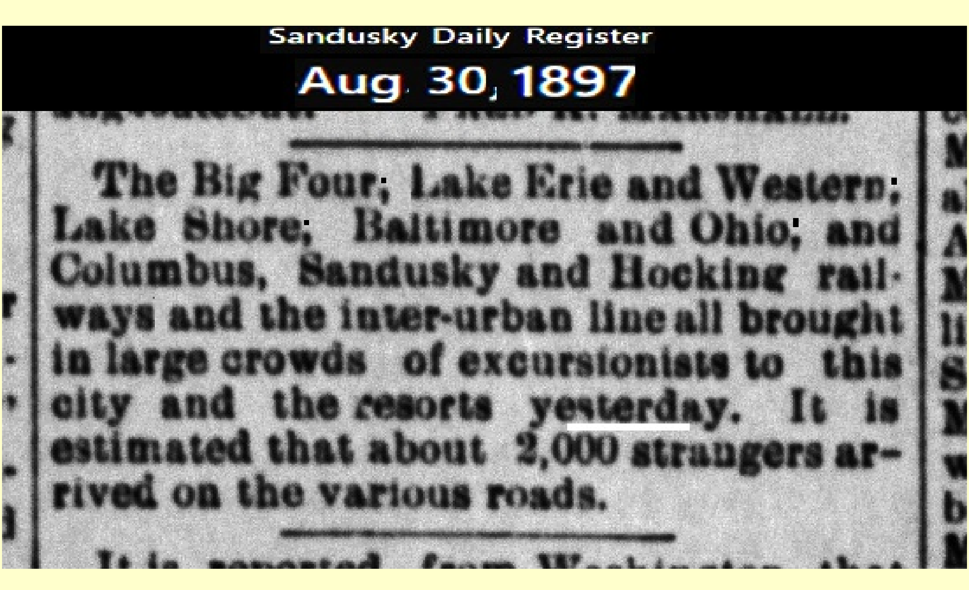
Here are two news items from the 'season' just prior to its "Phase 2":


Sandusky Daily Register
May 13, 1897

Manager Batez, of the Cedar Point Pleasure Resort company, has a large force of men at work on the grounds and buildings preparing for the opening of this popular resort, which takes place three weeks from this evening.

[ "Batez" was an obvious manual-type-setter error, for "Baetz" ]

That newspaper item (and several others), indicate that 'Cedar Point Pleasure Resort' was in prime condition for the '1897' season, (which refutes later "historian" assertions that the 'resort' was in disrepair at the time of the "Indiana incorporation" in Dec.1897.)


Sandusky Daily Register
Aug. 30, 1897

The Big Four; Lake Erie and Western; Lake Shore; Baltimore and Ohio; and Columbus, Sandusky and Hocking railways and the inter-urban line all brought in large crowds of excursionists to this city and the resorts yesterday. It is estimated that about 2,000 strangers arrived on the various roads.

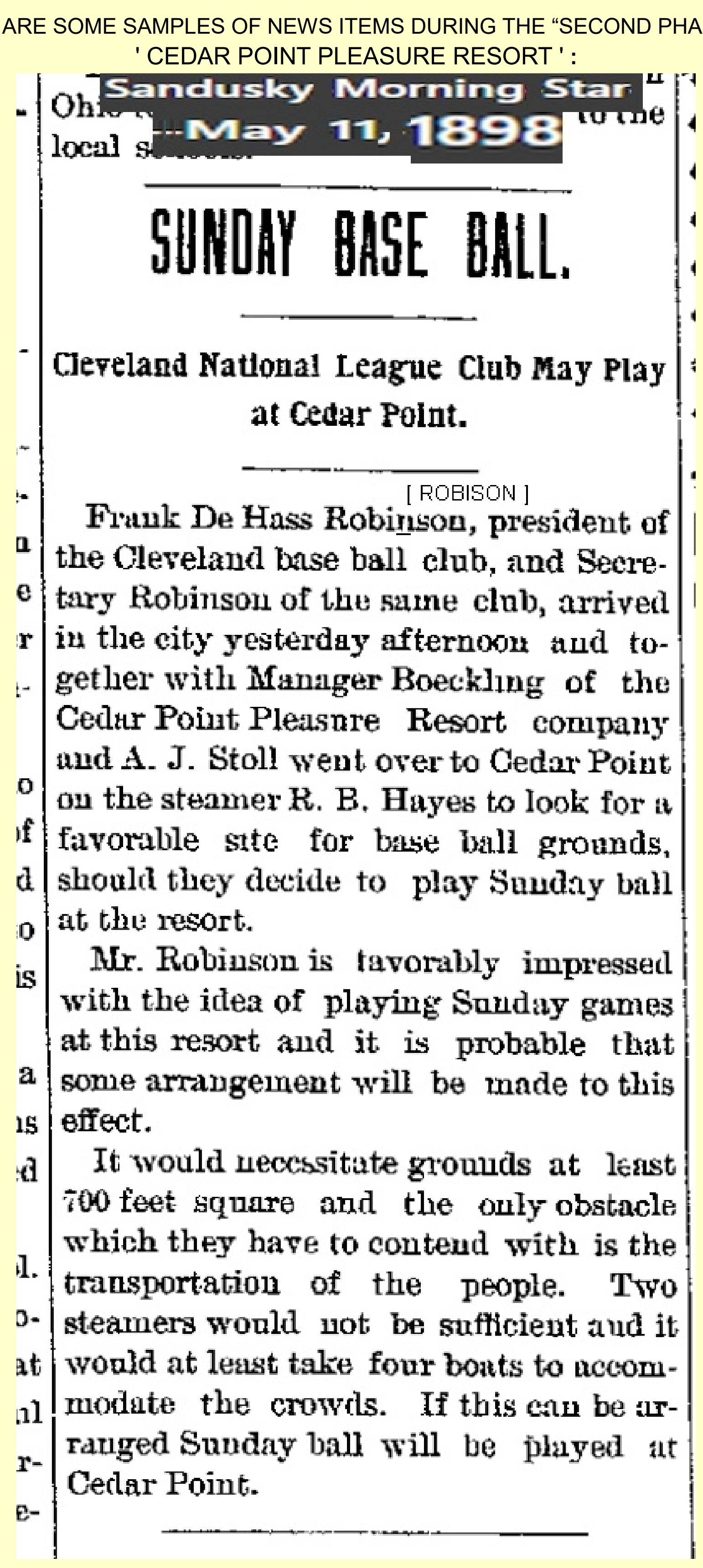
[ *"The Big Four"* = C.C.C. & St.L. r.r.; *"Lake Shore"* = *Lake Shore & Michigan Southern* r.r. ]

That '1897' news item (etc.) would seem to repudiate the assertion (by "historians"), that Boeckling had been sent to take control of "Cedar Point" on behalf of any "r.r." company.

( Especially considering that "Cedar Point" was merely one of many resort destinations in this area, including *Johnsons Island Pleasure Resort*, and other island 'Resorts', etc.)

[ Also, this Resort was probably very profitable that year; however, some of the owners publicly asserted, (apparently for nefarious purposes), that it had not been profitable.]

HERE ARE SOME SAMPLES OF NEWS ITEMS DURING THE "SECOND PHASE" OF ' CEDAR POINT PLEASURE RESORT ' :


Sandusky Morning Star
May 11, 1898

SUNDAY BASE BALL.

Cleveland National League Club May Play at Cedar Point.

[ ROBISON ]

Frank De Hass Robinson, president of the Cleveland base ball club, and Secretary Robinson of the same club, arrived in the city yesterday afternoon and together with Manager Boeckling of the Cedar Point Pleasnre Resort company and A. J. Stoll went over to Cedar Point on the steamer R. B. Hayes to look for a favorable site for base ball grounds, should they decide to play Sunday ball at the resort.

Mr. Robinson is favorably impressed with the idea of playing Sunday games at this resort and it is probable that some arrangement will be made to this effect.

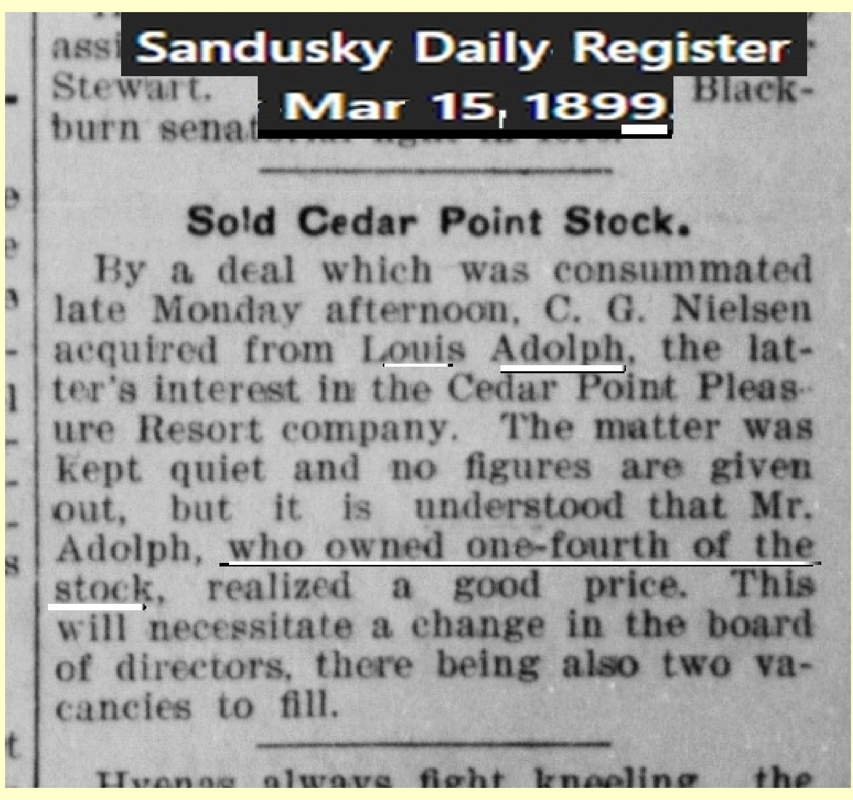
It would necessitate grounds at least 700 feet square and the only obstacle which they have to contend with is the transportation of the people. Two steamers would not be sufficient and it would at least take four boats to accommodate the crowds. If this can be arranged Sunday ball will be played at Cedar Point.

( The same as during 1888-1897, *'Cedar Point Pleasure Resort'* was still the name of this 'resort' enterprise. *"Cedar Point"* was the peninsula.)

In Spring of 1898, "A. J. Stoll" was one of the four(?) total owners of the Cedar Point Pleasure Resort Company ("of Indiana"). The three(?) other "owners" of that company had also been the owners of the *'Cedar Point Pleasure Resort Company'* of 1888-97. They merely traded their ownership, for 'stock' in the "new" company.

(Boeckling later began intermittently acquiring individual "shares" of the company.)

[ Incidentally, the "ownership" by several of those men, was actually through their wives ! ]


Sandusky Daily Register
Mar 15, 1899

Sold Cedar Point Stock.

By a deal which was consummated late Monday afternoon, C. G. Nielsen acquired from Louis Adolph, the latter's interest in the Cedar Point Pleasure Resort company. The matter was kept quiet and no figures are given out, but it is understood that Mr. Adolph, who owned one-fourth of the stock, realized a good price. This will necessitate a change in the board of directors, there being also two vacancies to fill.

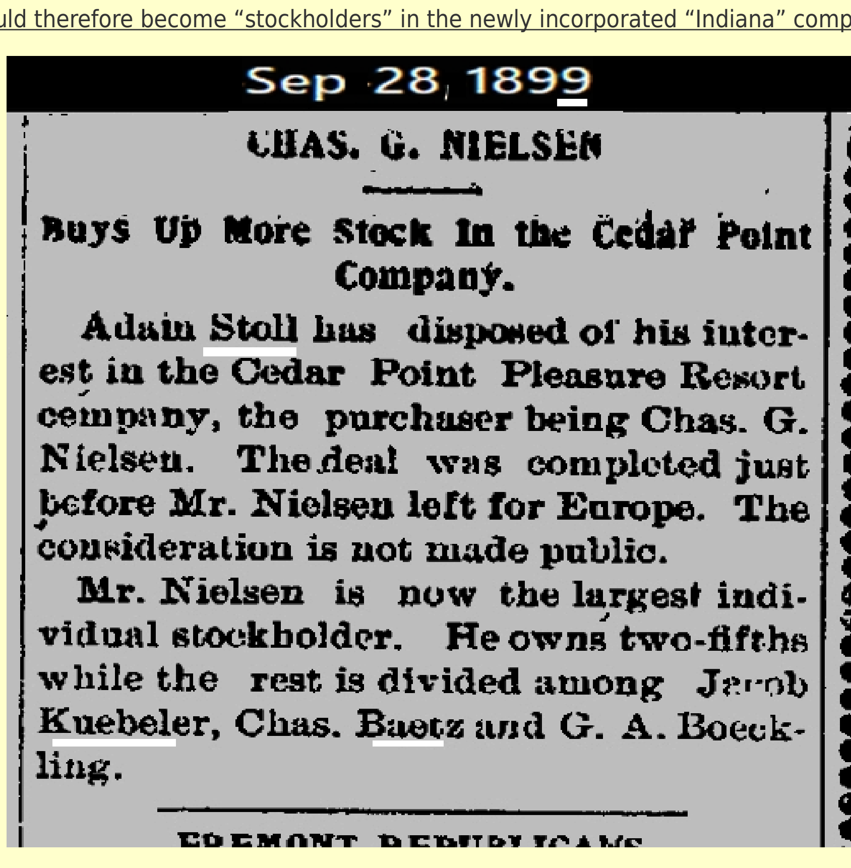
Research is ongoing to identify the full "Board of Directors" during 1898-1899.

Louis Adolph had married the widow of Mr. Geiersdorf, ( a previous owner of the land underneath the 'resort'; therefore, Mrs. Adolf technically had become the owner of that land).

Adam J. Stoll had married the (much) younger sister* of Mrs. Geiersdorf-Adolph.

( * Mr. and Mrs. Geiersdorf had raised Mrs. Geiersdorf's sister as being their own "daughter". Therefore, Mrs. Stoll had become the other owner of the land after the death of her "father", Mr. Geiersdorf. )

But both women had relinquished their ownership of the land, so that their husbands could therefore become "stockholders" in the newly incorporated "Indiana" company.


Sep 28, 1899

CHAS. G. NIELSEN

Buys Up More Stock in the Cedar Point Company.

Adam Stoll has disposed of his interest in the Cedar Point Pleasure Resort company, the purchaser being Chas. G. Nielsen. The deal was completed just before Mr. Nielsen left for Europe. The consideration is not made public.

Mr. Nielsen is now the largest individual stockholder. He owns two-fifths while the rest is divided among Jacob Kuebeler, Chas. Baetz and G. A. Boeckling.

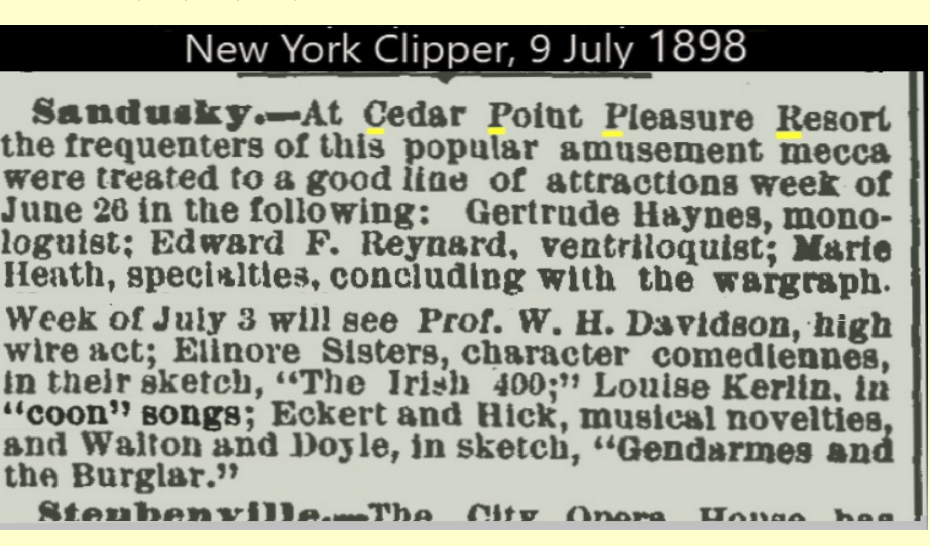
Charles Baetz's "share" ostensibly had been confiscated from B.F. Dwelle (in 1897?).

"Manager" Boeckling had acquired a "Kuebeler" share during the year 1898.

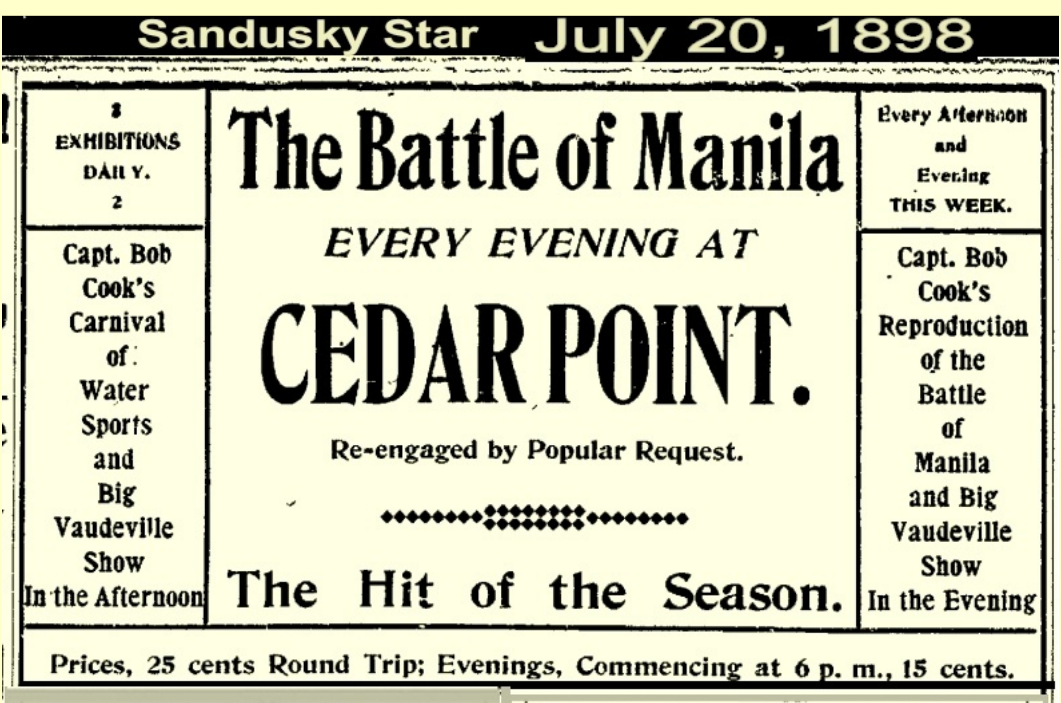
( Incidentally: the Kuebeler family also had family-ties to the two women "prior owners".)

[ Nielsen and Boeckling had other mutual business-connections, in addition to C. P. Pleasure Resort. ]

{ Mysteriously(?), "Cedar Point historian" K. Miller mentions nothing about several pertinent "ownership" transactions in Miller's 2019 *"Atlas and Chronology"*, ( and, within which, this company is repeatedly (mis)named as the *"Cedar Point Pleasure Company"*. Is it therefore any "mystery" why that book also omitted several official names of this 'resort'? }


New York Clipper, 9 July 1898

Sandusky.—At Cedar Point Pleasure Resort the frequenters of this popular amusement mecca were treated to a good line of attractions week of June 26 in the following: Gertrude Haynes, monologuist; Edward F. Reynard, ventriloquist; Marie Heath, specialties, concluding with the wargraph. Week of July 3 will see Prof. W. H. Davidson, high wire act; Elinore Sisters, character comediennes, in their sketch, "The Irish 400;" Louise Kerlin, in "coon" songs; Eckert and Hick, musical novelties, and Walton and Doyle, in sketch, "Gendarmes and the Burglar."


Sandusky Star July 20, 1898

3 EXHIBITIONS DAILY. 2

Capt. Bob Cook's Carnival of Water Sports and Big Vaudeville Show In the Afternoon

The Battle of Manila

EVERY EVENING AT

CEDAR POINT.

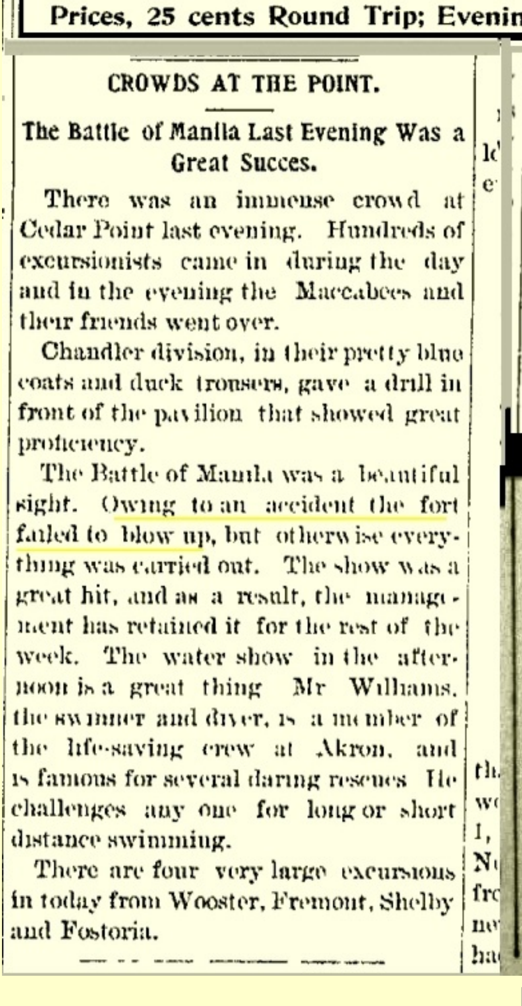
Re-engaged by Popular Request.

The Hit of the Season.

Every Afternoon and Evening THIS WEEK.

Capt. Bob Cook's Reproduction of the Battle of Manila and Big Vaudeville Show In the Evening

Prices, 25 cents Round Trip; Evenings, Commencing at 6 p. m., 15 cents.


CROWDS AT THE POINT.

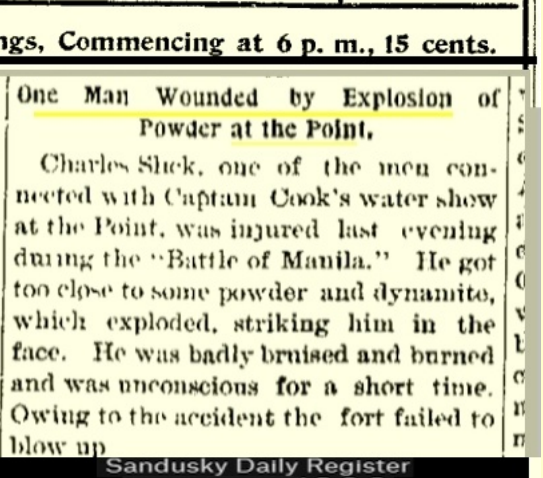
The Battle of Manila Last Evening Was a Great Succes.

There was an immense crowd at Cedar Point last evening. Hundreds of excursionists came in during the day and in the evening the Maccabees and their friends went over.

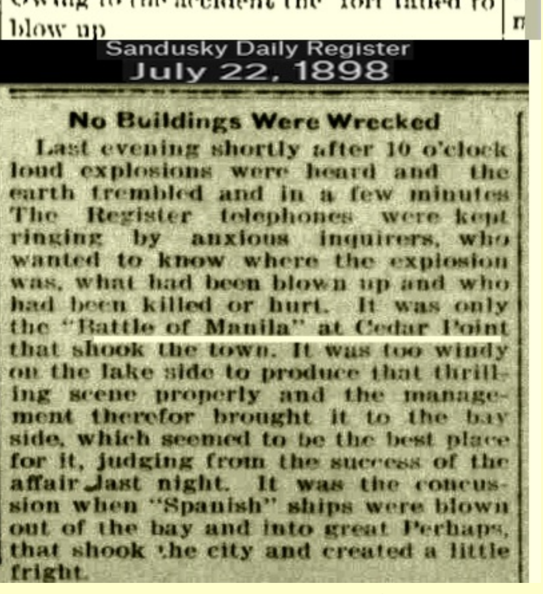
Chandler division, in their pretty blue coats and duck trousers, gave a drill in front of the pavilion that showed great proficiency.

The Battle of Manila was a beautiful sight. Owing to an accident the fort failed to blow up, but otherwise everything was carried out. The show was a great hit, and as a result, the management has retained it for the rest of the week. The water show in the afternoon is a great thing. Mr Williams, the swimmer and diver, is a member of the life-saving crew at Akron, and is famous for several daring rescues. He challenges any one for long or short distance swimming.

There are four very large excursions in today from Wooster, Fremont, Shelby and Fostoria.


One Man Wounded by Explosion of Powder at the Point.

Charles Slick, one of the men connected with Captain Cook's water show at the Point, was injured last evening during the "Battle of Manila." He got too close to some powder and dynamite, which exploded, striking him in the face. He was badly bruised and burned and was unconscious for a short time. Owing to the accident the fort failed to blow up.


Sandusky Daily Register
July 22, 1898

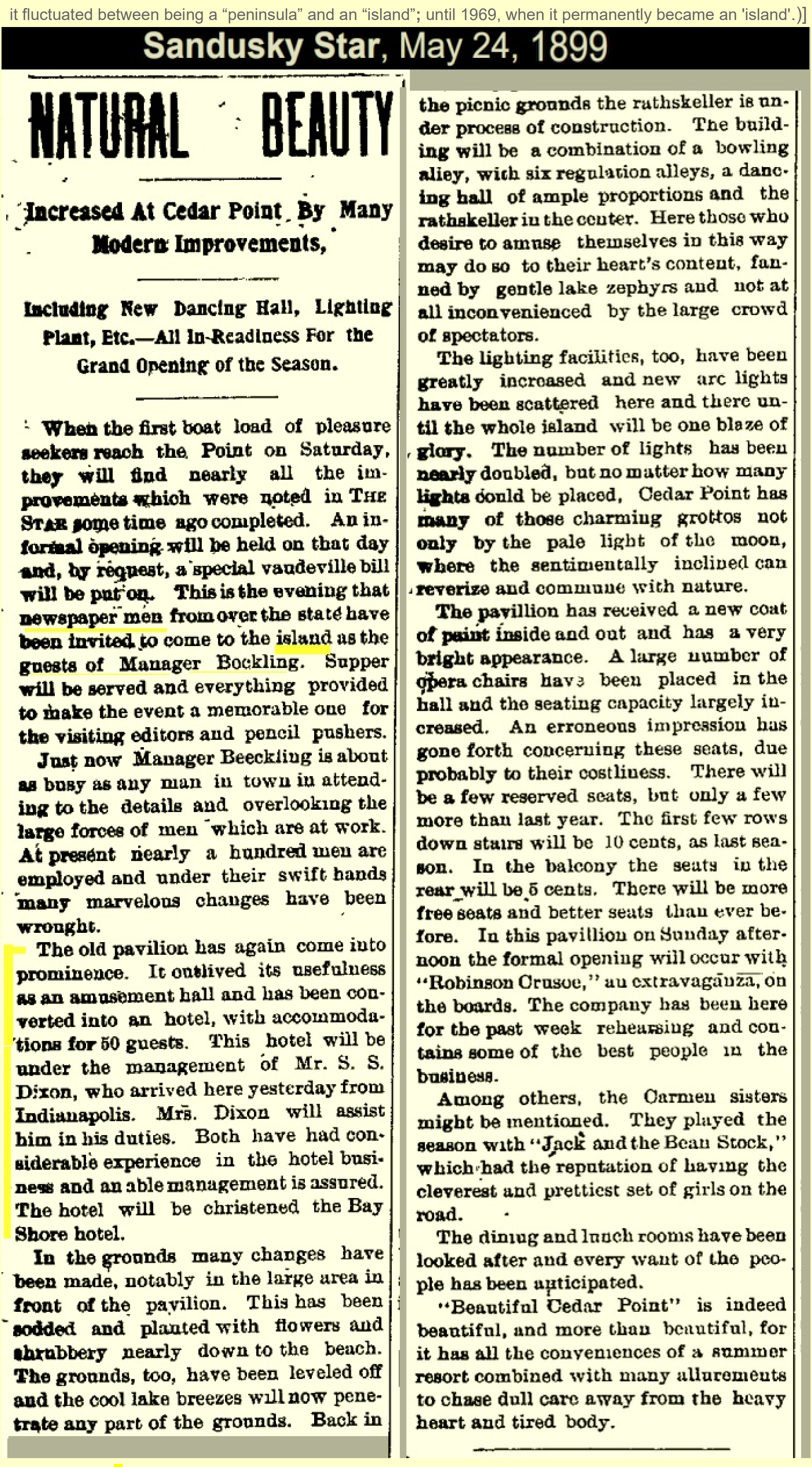
No Buildings Were Wrecked

Last evening shortly after 10 o'clock loud explosions were heard and the earth trembled and in a few minutes The Register telephones were kept ringing by anxious inquirers, who wanted to know where the explosion was, what had been blown up and who had been killed or hurt. It was only the "Battle of Manila" at Cedar Point that shook the town. It was too windy on the lake side to produce that thrilling scene properly and the management therefor brought it to the bay side, which seemed to be the best place for it, judging from the success of the affair last night. It was the concussion when "Spanish" ships were blown out of the bay and into great Perhaps, that shook the city and created a little fright.

[ *" into* (the) *great Perhaps "* = to the Great Beyond ]

!! - (Manager) Boeckling was later honored that year, for 'booking' such popular entertainment that season, (which was basically the true extent of Boeckling's contribution of "improvements" for that year; but which actually was probably more to the credit of his "assistant", Wm. J. Benedict).

[ Notice the following mention of "Cedar Point" being an "island" in 1899. ( Due to intermittent erosion, it fluctuated between being a "peninsula" and an "island"; until 1969, when it permanently became an 'island'.)]


Sandusky Star, May 24, 1899

NATURAL BEAUTY

Increased At Cedar Point By Many Modern Improvements,

Including New Dancing Hall, Lighting Plant, Etc.—All In-Readiness For the Grand Opening of the Season.

When the first boat load of pleasure seekers reach the Point on Saturday, they will find nearly all the improvements which were noted in THE STAR some time ago completed. An informal opening will be held on that day and, by request, a special vaudeville bill will be put on. This is the evening that newspaper men from over the state have been invited to come to the island as the guests of Manager Bockling. Supper will be served and everything provided to make the event a memorable one for the visiting editors and pencil pushers.

Just now Manager Boeckling is about as busy as any man in town in attending to the details and overlooking the large forces of men which are at work. At present nearly a hundred men are employed and under their swift hands many marvelous changes have been wrought.

The old pavilion has again come into prominence. It outlived its usefulness as an amusement hall and has been converted into an hotel, with accommodations for 50 guests. This hotel will be under the management of Mr. S. S. Dixon, who arrived here yesterday from Indianapolis. Mrs. Dixon will assist him in his duties. Both have had considerable experience in the hotel business and an able management is assured. The hotel will be christened the Bay Shore hotel.

In the grounds many changes have been made, notably in the large area in front of the pavilion. This has been sodded and planted with flowers and shrubbery nearly down to the beach. The grounds, too, have been leveled off and the cool lake breezes will now penetrate any part of the grounds. Back in the picnic grounds the rathskeller is under process of construction. The building will be a combination of a bowling alley, with six regulation alleys, a dancing hall of ample proportions and the rathskeller in the center. Here those who desire to amuse themselves in this way may do so to their heart's content, fanned by gentle lake zephyrs and not at all inconvenienced by the large crowd of spectators.

The lighting facilities, too, have been greatly increased and new arc lights have been scattered here and there until the whole island will be one blaze of glory. The number of lights has been nearly doubled, but no matter how many lights could be placed, Cedar Point has many of those charming grottos not only by the pale light of the moon, where the sentimentally inclined can reverize and commune with nature.

The pavillion has received a new coat of paint inside and out and has a very bright appearance. A large number of opera chairs have been placed in the hall and the seating capacity largely increased. An erroneous impression has gone forth concerning these seats, due probably to their costliness. There will be a few reserved seats, but only a few more than last year. The first few rows down stairs will be 10 cents, as last season. In the balcony the seats in the rear will be 5 cents. There will be more free seats and better seats than ever before. In this pavillion on Sunday afternoon the formal opening will occur with "Robinson Crusoe," au extravaganza, on the boards. The company has been here for the past week rehearsing and contains some of the best people in the business.

Among others, the Carmen sisters might be mentioned. They played the season with "Jack and the Bean Stock," which had the reputation of having the cleverest and prettiest set of girls on the road.

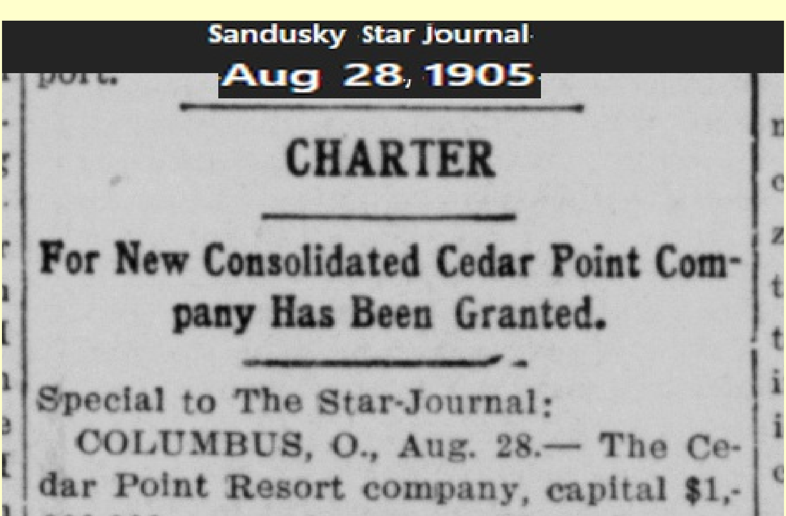
The dining and lunch rooms have been looked after and every want of the people has been anticipated.

"Beautiful Cedar Point" is indeed beautiful, and more than beautiful, for it has all the conveniences of a summer resort combined with many allurements to chase dull care away from the heavy heart and tired body.

^ The *"old pavilion"*, ( not to be confused with the Grand Pavilion), was originally the dance-hall /restaurant which had been installed by B.F. Dwelle in 1883, (and which was converted into the small "Bay Shore Hotel" in 1899). The larger "White House Hotel" was constructed a couple of years later, and the huge "Hotel Breakers" in 1905; but of course none of those hotels were of much advantage to the great majority of the other patrons of 'Cedar Point Pleasure Resort' --- who weren't staying-the-night there; or were simply tent camping at (free) "public areas" on the much more narrow portions of this (former) peninsula named "Cedar Point":

[ photographed by ] A. R. RHEINEGGER CEDAR POINT, SANDUSKY, OHIO
[ circa-1905 ]

[ The 'Cedar Point Pleasure Resort Company' technically only owned about 450 acres, which is approximately still the same area of the current amusement park's area. The other, narrow portion of "Cedar Point" had essentially become public-property --- its private ownership had been long-previously abandoned due to ongoing erosion --- until the 'Resort' later needed it to build a road, and so it was simply usurped for that purpose; and that entire, many-miles long portion of this "peninsula" became restricted, apparently including the "Carrying Grounds", (which had always been "public-property", before that).]


Sandusky Star Journal
Aug 28, 1905

CHARTER

For New Consolidated Cedar Point Company Has Been Granted.

Special to The Star-Journal:

COLUMBUS, O., Aug. 28.— The Cedar Point Resort company, capital $1,000,000, was incorporated today by George A. Boeckling, Joseph F. Singler, William A. Dehnel, August Kuebeler, jr., and R. K. Ramsey.

This company will take over the holdings of the Cedar Point Improvement and Cedar Point Pleasure Resort companies, and be the entire owner of the famous Sandusky outing place. The new company will materially improve the place, according to reports here.

[ So, *"materially"*, the major *"improvements"* to the original ( 1888 -1897 ) 'Cedar Point Pleasure Resort' occurred for the '1906' season, ( and this Resort was also given a new name*, in 1906). ]

Ostensibly there were still only five(?) "owners" (shareholders), in 1905. Especially notice the name "R.K. Ramsey"; he would later write a *"brief history of Cedar Point"* for the "Firelands Historical Society", but, (not surprisingly), that "history" seems to have been biased, including several faulty assertions, and some significant omissions.

[ There was an additional reason why Ramsey had "CP secrets to keep"; the same reason that "CP historian" Frohman, (etc.) had "CP secrets to keep".]

{ .....TO BE CONTINUED, AND GREATLY EXPANDED.}

[ * see *' CEDAR POINT ON LAKE ERIE '* by the "Cedar Point Peninsula-Island Club" / "C.P.P.-I.C." at archive.org
Also see the "CEDAR POINT FIBS AND FIBBERS" series of "CPP-IC" publications ]